

worship@home resources for 29 March 2020

These resources are a guide to worshipping at home. Feel free to modify or adapt to fit your circumstances. You may like to begin your worship at 10 am on Sunday morning as we usually do, being assured that you will be joining many of our regular worshippers in spirit if not in the same physical space. You could worship with a friend over the phone or via Skype or Facebook Messenger. Your worship will be enhanced if you say the call to worship and the prayers out loud.

Next week we will offer some more adventurous ideas to try.

You may be helped to worship by making a few simple preparations. Lay a coloured cloth or scarf over a table or desk (purple for Lent?) and place something on it that reminds you of your faith (e.g. a cross, open Bible, vase of flowers). Light a candle if you wish as a reminder of God's presence that is always with us. If you journal, get out your journal and a pen. If you value singing, you'll need a means of playing the YouTube links below.

Now close your eyes for a few moments, quiet yourself, and when you are ready, begin worship.

A CALL TO WORSHIP FOR DISPERSED PEOPLE (by Craig Mitchell)

We are connected by God's Spirit,
hoping for a glimpse of the holy:
the One who brooded over Creation
who engulfed a bush in flame
who rolled away the tombstone.

We are connected by God's Spirit,
hoping for a whisper of the truth:
the Word who first spoke in the silence
the voice who raged with prophet's zeal
the teacher who blessed humble and poor.

We are connected by God's Spirit,
hoping for a touch of compassion:
the tenderness that shaped the human body
the caress that opened eyes of the blind
the soothing hand that brought healing calm.

We are connected by God's Spirit,
in the presence of mystery:
of One who is revealed and hidden,
known and unknown
living Word and eternal Spirit
Three and One

Breathe into us hope, faith and joy.
Breathe into us compassion, truth and holiness.
Breathe into us reconciliation, justice and peace.
Breathe newness of life as we worship today
in this place and in many places
joined by your Spirit of comfort and hope.
Amen.

SONG

Listen (or sing along with) this YouTube clip of TiS 188 Where wide sky rolls down

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFX7VBH_2ZQ



PRAYER OF THANKS & CONFESSION

Spend some time thinking of what you are grateful for today and thank God. Write these thoughts in your journal.

Also spend some time thinking of what you are sorry for today and talk to God about these things.

Know that you are forgiven and that God takes great delight in you.

BIBLE READING

Read Psalm 46 aloud. Perhaps even read it through twice.

Ponder the relevance of these ancient words for the situation we find ourselves in today.

Then turn to Paul's letter to the Philippians and read aloud chapter 4, verses 4-7.

REFLECTION

Spend a few minutes in silence to reflect on the reading.

- What stands out to you in the reading from Philippians?
- Where is the good news in this reading?
- What is challenging in the reading?
- If you have a journal or a piece of paper, jot down some of your thoughts, or draw a picture in response to the reading.

When was a time that you experienced the deep peace of God that Paul writes about?

How did it change your perception of the situation?

What is making you anxious in these days? Pray to God about these things.

SONG

Listen (or sing along with) the YouTube clip of TiS 607 Make me a channel of your peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OTHERS

Pray for the people God has placed on your heart this week.

Pray for these people to know God's peace and strength and love.

... then pray for yourself to know God's peace.

You may like to pray the following prayer, which is adapted from Walter Brueggemann. It seems appropriate at the moment.

We do not really know about hiding ourselves away
for we live privileged, safe lives.
Nonetheless fear and anxiety live close beneath the surface ...
enemies we cannot see,
worry in the night that we cannot control.
And so we pray,
outlining our anxieties and fears,
bewildered by what is happening around us.
We turn to you, only you ... nowhere else.
In the midst of our anxiety, confidence wells up.
We pray and the world seems to change and become grateful,
not because we believe our own words,
but because of your presence,
your powerful, reliable presence,
which looms larger than fear,
larger than anxiety,
large enough for us in our small vulnerability.
And we give thanks.
Amen.

A CELTIC BLESSING

You, O God, paint the sky with our prayers.

You, O Mighty One, bend your ear to our fears, our praises.

You, O Gentle Spirit, delight in creatures great and small.

Shelter us in your love.

Enliven us with your presence.

Embrace us with your peace.